

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19423

Appropriates an additional \$196,700 in dedicated funds to the Idaho Department of Lands for fiscal year 2010. At the December 2008 meeting, the State Board of Land Commissioners increased the private forest landowner fire protection rates from \$.55 to \$.60 per acre effective January 1, 2009. (Section, 38-111, Idaho Code caps the rate at \$.65 per acre.) In June, the Land Board increased the rates for improved parcels from \$20 to the cap of \$40 per parcel effective July 1, 2009. All money is used for fire preparedness activities.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill appropriates \$196,700 to the Department of Lands in three parts related to the five cent wildland fire protection landowner assessment fee increase and the \$20 per parcel acreage adjustment. All money is used for fire preparedness activities. 1) It includes \$53,000 from the Endowment Earnings Reserve Fund in trustee & benefit payments to pay to protect 1,060,000 forested acres of endowment properties. 2) It includes \$10,300 from the Endowment Earnings Reserve Fund in trustee & benefit payments to pay for the 515 cabin sites on protected lands (an additional seven leases are under city fire protection or have no structure on the property). 3) Spending authority from the Department of Lands Fund in the amount of \$133,400 is provided to pass through, to the timber protective associations, fire assessments paid by the endowments or collected by counties from private landowner tax rolls. Of the total, \$93,200 is for the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association and \$40,200 is for the Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association. [Ongoing]

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